

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 02531 291745Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4376  
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
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AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O.: 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, DA  
SUBJ: PERSONAL THREATS MADE TO SUPERVISORS AND THEIR FAMILIES  
HALT PRODUCTION OF BERLINGSKE TIDENDE

REF : COPENHAGEN 2471 (NOTAL)

1. THE CONTINUING LABOR CONFLICT AT DENMARK'S LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER, BERLINGSKE TIDENDE, TOOK A MORE DISTURBING TURN YESTERDAY. MANAGEMENT-LEVEL EMPLOYEES WERE ALLEGEDLY THREATENED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STRIKING TOPOGRAPHERS THAT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN TO THE FAMILIES OF THE FORMER IF THEY CONTINUED TO ASSIST IN PUBLISHING THE "EMERGENCY EDITION" OF THE NEWSPAPER WHICH HAS APPEARED FOUR TIMES THIS WEEK. THE ALLEGED THREATS WERE TAKEN SERIOUSLY ENOUGH TO ACHIEVE WHAT BLOCKADES OF THE BERLINGSKE PUBLISHING HOUSE AND SOME VIOLENCE EARLIER THIS WEEK HAD FAILED TO BRING ABOUT - A CESSATION OF PUBLICATION.

2. IN ADDITION, THE PRESENT SITUATION PROVOKED BY THE AL-  
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LEGED THREATS CAUSED AN ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED INTERRUPTION IN SCHEDULED FOLKETING PROCEDURES YESTERDAY TO ALLOW THE PRIME MINISTER TO MEET WITH HIS CABINET ON THE BERLINGSKE ISSUE. FURTHER GOVERNMENT DELIBERATIONS WILL CONTINUE TODAY AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF PRONOUNCED UNEASINESS ON THE PART OF THE DANISH PUBLIC OVER THE DISRUPTION OF THIS NORMALLY-ORDERLY SOCIETY. A FOLKETING DEBATE ON THE MATTER HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR LATER

TODAY. SPOKESMEN FOR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND ALL OTHER PARTIES TO THEIR RIGHT HAVE CONDEMNED SUCH THREATS AND CHARACTERIZED THEM AS MATTERS FOR POLICE AND COURT ACTION.

3. COMMENT: THE TYPOGRAPHERS WALKED OUT OF BERLINGSKE ON JANUARY 29 IN WHAT THE LABOR COURT RULED WAS, AND IS, AN ILLEGAL STRIKE. UNDER DANISH LAW, NO REAL CRIMINAL PENALTIES ATTACH TO THIS "CONTEMPT OF COURT". IT WILL BE RECALLED, HOWEVER, THAT BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL TOPOGRAPHERS AS WELL AS THEIR UNION HAVE BEEN FINED - ALTHOUGH INDIVIDUAL FINES ARE RELATIVELY LOW BY US STANDARDS. WHILE THE STRIKING TOPOGRAPHERS HAVE RECEIVED SOME FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER UNIONS, IT HAS NOT BY ANY MEANS MATCHED THE AFFLUENT PAY SCALES TO WHICH THEY HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED. FURTHERMORE, THE BERLINGSKE MANAGEMENT HAS OFFERED TO REHIRE ONLY ABOUT 600 OF THE 900-PLUS WHO WALKED OUT AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY FIRED. FINALLY, THE TOPOGRAPHERS MUST KNOW THAT EVEN IF THEY ARE "SUCCESSFUL" IN ACHIEVING AN ACCEPTABLE PORTION OF THEIR PRESENT DEMANDS, THEY ARE PRACTITIONERS OF A DYING TRADE.

4. THE SUM TOTAL OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES - WITH, PERHAPS, SOME FINAGLING BY FAR-LEFT ELEMENTS - HAS BEEN ENOUGH TO PRODUCE WHAT FOR DENMARK IS AN UNUSUAL AND UGLY SITUATION.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, PERSONNEL, LABOR STRIKES, NEWSPAPERS, LABOR DISPUTES, THREATS, THE PRESS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** PERSONAL THREATS MADE TO SUPERVISORS AND THEIR FAMILIES HALT PRODUCTION OF BERLINGSKE TIDENDE  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PINT, DA, BERLINGSKE TIDENDE  
**To:** STATE  
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